

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are currently pending in the subject application and are presently under consideration. Applicants' representative notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 6-8 and 15 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to recite limitations of respective base claims and any intervening claims. To this end, independent claims 1, 11, 16 and 22 have been amended to incorporate the subject matter of dependent claims 6 and 15 as shown on pages 2-4 of the Reply. Additionally, claims 6 and 15 have been cancelled.

Favorable reconsideration of the subject patent application is respectfully requested in view of the comments and amendments herein.

I. Rejection of Claim 1-8, 10-18 and 20-22 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kela *et al.* (US 6,950,680) and further in view of Higginson (US 6,703,963). It is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn in view of the incorporation of allowable subject matter into independent claims 1, 11, 16 and 22.

II. Rejection of Claim 9 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claim 9 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kela *et al.* as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Collett *et al.* (US 5,517,683). In view of the incorporation of allowable subject matter into independent claim 1 from which claim 9 depends, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

III. Rejection of Claim 19 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claim 19 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kela *et al.* as applied to claim 18 above, and further in view of Arneson *et al.* (US 6,785,395). In view of the incorporation of allowable subject matter into independent claim 16 from which claim 19 depends, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

The present application is believed to be in condition for allowance in view of the above comments and amendments. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

In the event any fees are due in connection with this document, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1063 [SYMBP192US].

Should the Examiner believe a telephone interview would be helpful to expedite favorable prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,
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